Odio, Silvia

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Post Office Box 4312
San Juan, Puerto Rico - 00905
September 11, 1964

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

On September 8, 1964, Mr. Tyrus E. Minnix, Deputy District Director, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), San Juan, Puerto Rico, made available the file pertaining to Silvia Odio del Toro, INS Number A-12-570-365.

This file contained a copy of INS Form I-161 which reflects the following information:

Silvia Eugenia Odio y del Toro, Urbanizacion San Antonio F-35, Ponce, Puerto Rico, a white female of Cuban nationality, arrived Miami, Florida, December 25, 1960 via Pan American World Airways (PAWA) flight 422. Her occupation in Cuba was listed as housewife and the reason for not returning to Cuba was listed as being anti-Castro and anticommunist. Her INS Number is A-12-570-365, and her husband was listed as Guillermo Herrera, INS Number A-12-570-366. Her residence in Cuba was listed as Edificio Focsa Apartments 18-C, Vedado, Havana, Cuba. The INS file was transferred from Miami to San Juan on March 13, 1961, at which time she was classified a refugee and granted indefinite status.

This file also contained an alien registration form dated July 21, 1944 indicating that Silvia E. Toro was visiting the United States in 1944 with her mother, Sarah. It is noted at this time that Odio was 7 years of age.

Re: Lee Harvey Oswald

On September 8, 1964, Mr. Minnix also made available the file pertaining to Guillermo Herrera Garcia, INS Number A-12-570-366, who is the husband of Silvia Odio.

A review of this file reflects INS Form I-161 lists Herrera's address as Urbanizacion San Antonio F-35, Ponce, Puerto Rico; his occupation was listed as industrial engineer, and the reason for not returning to Cuba was that he is anti-Castro and anticommunist. He arrived in Miami, Florida, November 17, 1960, via PAWA flight 422. His address in Cuba was listed as being the same as for Silvia Odio.

This file also reflects a change of address card for Herrera, dated April 9, 1964, reflecting a change of address from El Vigia #12, Ponce, Puerto Rico, to Apartment G-35, El Monte Apartments, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico. His employment as of April, 1964, was listed as engineer with Molinos de Puerto Rico in Catano, Puerto Rico.

His file indicates Herrera was born October 27, 1934, Santiago de Cuba, father - Guillermo Herrera, mother - Silvia Garcia. The file reflects his father is deceased, and that his mother resides at 1828 West Flagler, Miami, Florida.

This file further indicates that Herrera attended high school in Staunton, Virginia, 1948 to 1952, and attended Georgia Tech University from 1952 to 1957 where he received a degree in Industrial Engineering.

According to this file, in 1962, Herrera was employed by Western Fher Laboratory, Incorporated, Ponce, Puerto Rico, and was sent to Germany by this corporation for a period of six months to attend a course at the main office of this corporation. The file reflects he departed in May of 1962 and returned to Puerto Rico in November of 1962. His FBI Number, according to this file, is [240 938 E] and his Identification Record contains only his application for entry into the United States in November, 1960, and in November, 1962, upon his return from Germany.

Re: Lee Harvey Oswald

The files of the following agencies were caused to be checked on September 8, 1964, by the persons indicated for the names Silvia Eugenia Odio del Toro, Silvia Eugenia Odio de Herrera, Guillermo Herrera, and Guillermo Herrera Garcia, with negative results:

Office of Intelligence, Police of Puerto Rico (POPR), by Angelina Medina, Clerk, and by Captain Jose E. Hernandez, Chief, Office of Intelligence, POPR;

Identification Division, POPR, by Luis Febus, Clerk;

Detective Division, POPR, by Lieutenant Antonio Maldonado;

Retail Credit Corporation, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, by Rosario Avila, Clerk;

United States Secret Service, San Juan, Puerto Rico, by Special Agent Victor Gonzalez.

On September 9, 1964, Manuel Ray, Calle La Rabida #310, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, advised that he is the head of the organization known as Junta Revolucionaria Cubana (JURE). He was interviewed in the presence of his wife.

Mr. Ray stated that on September 4, 1964, he was interviewed by agents of the FBI in Miami, Florida, just prior to his departure from Miami for Puerto Rico. He stated that he advised the agents at this time that he had never known any individual connected with JURE by the name of Leopoldo. He stated this was a very uncommon name and, as far as he can remember, he does not know any individual by that name.

In regard to Silvia Odio, he stated that he has met this person on five or six occasions, mainly social, and that he originally met her at the home of

Jeronimo Esteve, Jr., in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He indicated she had been active to a certain degree with JURE in Ponce, Puerto Rico in 1962 prior to her departure for Dallas, Texas. He indicated he never had too much faith in Odio in regard to her activities in the organization.

Mrs. Ray stated that she is a good friend of Silvia Odio's mother who is presently a prisoner of the Castro regime in Cuba. Mrs. Ray considers Odio a very fine person but irresponsible and with a tendency toward exaggeration. She stated Odio will invent stories and will say whatever she thinks.

Mrs. Ray further indicated that, after the birth of Odio's last child, she was sick in bed in Ponce for several months, and it was general opinion amongst the individuals in Ponce that she was half out of her mind. She indicated that the reason for the divorce from her husband was entirely a personal problem between Odio and her husband and that it was occasioned primarily by the departure of Odio's husband from Ponce on a trip to Germany for a period of about six months.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Ray indicated that Jeronimo Esteve could possibly furnish additional information concerning Odio.

On September 9, 1964, Guillermo Herrera Garcia, Apartment G-35, El Monte Apartments, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, advised that he is the former husband of Silvia Odio del Toro.

Mr. Herrera stated that he married Silvia Odio on October 5, 1957 in Havana, Cuba. After Fidel Castro came to power in Cuba, he, Herrera, left Cuba in November, 1960, went to Miami, Florida, and almost immediately to Ponce, Puerto Rico. After he had located a place to live and a job in Ponce, he sent for his wife, Silvia, and children to join him. She arrived in Ponce about January 1, 1961, and they

resided for approximately one year at Urbanizacion San Antonio F-35, in Ponce. They subsequently moved, for the balance of their stay in Ponce, to El Vigia #12, Ponce.

He advised that his former wife was from a very wealthy family in Cuba and had been the center of attraction not only in the family but in most of the social circles in Havana prior to their marriage. He stated when they arrived in Ponce, he was working as an industrial engineer at Western Fher Laboratory, Incorporated; and that they were on an extremely tight budget and his wife had to do most of the housework by herself. He advised in May, 1962, he was sent by his employer to their home plant in Germany for a six months' course of instruction. During this period, he left his wife and four children in Ponce. He stated he had received information from friends and neighbors in Ponce that she had had a nervous breakdown during this period and that she traveled to Miami for approximately three weeks where she resided with her brother, Cesar Odio. On this trip to Miami, she took one child with her and left the other three children with friends or relatives.

Upon his return to Ponce from Germany in 1962, he stated he received information from various individuals in Ponce that his wife had been associating with another man who was also married. He stated that upon his return, they had several quarrels; and his wife left Ponce and went to Dallas to visit relatives. She returned several months later and instituted a suit for divorce. Herrera stated that, at this time, he filed a countersuit alleging infidelity on the part of Odio, at which time she dropped her suit and did not contest the suit filed by him. He stated that the divorce was granted in Suprior Court, Ponce, on August 29, 1963, and that the custody of the four children was awarded to him.

However, he stated, that it is his belief that the children should be with their mother, and that he has a private agreement, in writing, with Odio that she may retain custody of the children as long as she is willing and capable of raising them.

Herrera further advised that upon his return from Germany, Odio made two abortive attempts to take her own life. He stated that on one occasion, he and the children were out and upon their return, they found Odio in bed attempting to cut her wrists with a very dull knife. Herrera stated that there were many sharper knives in the house. On another occasion, Odio swallowed a bottle of pills, type not recalled at this time, at which time he rushed her to the hospital in Ponce. After treatment and analysis, it was determined that the pills were not harmful.

He further advised that she had been under psychiatric care in Ponce as well as in Dallas and exhibited a letter from a Dr. Lawrence W. Martin, Director of Out Patient Division, University of Dallas, Southwestern Medical School, dated April 1, 1963, in which Dr. Martin advised that Odio does have some emotional problems but that they are not self-induced, and that she mainly suffers from an anxiety neurosis.

Herrera advised that after the granting of the divorce, Odio returned to Dallas and he stated he had received information that sometime in the Fall of 1963, she underwent a hysterectomy operation and convalesced in the home of L. R. Rogers, Dallas, address unknown, but reportedly a wealthy cement plant operator. Rogers' brother is Robert D. Rogers, 3821 Whitehall Drive, Dallas.

Herrera further advised that Odio's parents were arrested by the Castro authorities in the Fall of 1961 while he and his wife were residing in Ponce. He stated this did have an emotional effect on Odio

and could have contributed to some of her nervous disorders. Odio's father was sentenced to 30 years and is presently incarcerated in the prison on the Isle of Pines, and her mother received a 6 year sentence and is confined in Havana, Cuba.

He further stated that during 1962, while he was in Germany, his wife joined JURE and assisted this organization in the collection of funds in the Ponce area stating that she felt this was the manner in which she could best assist her parents.

Herrera described his former wife as being very intelligent, well-educated, but an excellent actress and able to convince anyone of any item if she so desired. He stated she enjoyed being the center of attraction and believes that some of her activities in Ponce were due to this desire to seek attention.

He advised that the only individual he could think of by the name of Leopoldo is an individual by the name of Leopoldo Villoldo, who is a Cuban who recently returned from Dallas, Texas, to Puerto Rico and resides in the Hato Rey area. He advised he believes this individual's first name is Leopoldo but he is not sure. He stated that Leopoldo's wife was a good friend of his former wife.

Herrera stated that even though he described his former wife as being a good actress and convincing, he is of the opinion she would not be able to fabricate a story regarding any connection with Oswald and be able to stick to it through all the various inquiries to which she must have been subjected.

[SJ T-1, who is a former neighbor of Silvia Odio Herrera] in Ponce, Puerto Rico, advised on September 9, 1964, that the Herrera family was composed of Silvia, her husband Guillermo, and their four small children. Guillermo Herrera worked for the Fher Laboratory in Ponce, Puerto Rico, while his wife Silvia kept house for their four children.

After moving to El Vigia, Guillermo Herrera went to Germany for about six months to pursue studies there which would advance him in his work at his place of employment.

While Guillermo Herrera was in Germany, his wife, Silvia, became very nervous and agitated. She wanted the whole neighborhood to have pity on her and to look after her, presumably because she was alone with four small children to look after. She would create the impression at times that she was having a mental breakdown, and it was rumored that at one time while her husband was away, she wanted to kill herself.

She was described as a person who was acting all the time, who could cry one moment and smile the next, and who could immediately pass from a very depressed feeling to a very gay attitude.

She herself (Silvia Herrera) made the statement that she never did love her husband, but that he loved her and that she was more or less pressured into marrying him by her family in Cuba.

She was never observed to show affection for her four children and indicated on occasion that she did not want them near her.

Ernestina Garcia, Clerk of Court Office, Superior Court, Ponce, Puerto Rico, on September 9, 1964, produced divorce record Number 63-2000, which reflected Guillermo Herrera Garcia as "plaintiff" and Silvia Odio as "defendant."

The divorce action was initiated on July 16, 1963, by Guillermo Herrera Garcia, a resident of Ponce, Puerto Rico, and the defendant was identified as residing in Dallas, Texas.

The records indicated that Guillermo Herrera Garcia and Silvia Odio were married on October 5, 1957, in Havana, Cuba, after which, they moved to Ponce, Puerto Rico. They have four children, namely, Silvia Alejandra, 4½ years old; Maria Eugenia, 3½ years old; Guillermo, 2½ years old; and Patricia, 1½ years old, and all bore the last name of "Herrera Odio".

The record set forth that:

> "For a long time in a continuous manner, the defendant has been treating the plaintiff, not only cruelly, but also unusually, with words and with actions as well, in public and in private; whose conduct consists moreover in complete abandon of her obligations as a wife and mother, as well as an attitude of indifference and negligence towards the plaintiff, terminating this attitude in that the defendant left her home to go to the city of Dallas."

On August 29, 1964, and before Victor Vargas Negron, Judge, Superior Court, Ponce, Puerto Rico, Guillermo Herrera Garcia was granted divorce from Silvia Odio, at which time he was granted custody of the above-referred children.

[SJ T-2, a psychiatrist practicing in Ponce, Puerto Rico, advised on September 9, 1964, that Silvia Herrera was referred to him by another doctor in Ponce as a possible psychiatric case. She visited his office, but did not want to be treated as a psychiatric case] It was his impression that she came from a very wealthy family in Cuba, and he described her as emotionally unstable and unconventional, and he stated that she gave all the appearances of not being able, either mentally or physically, to take care of her four small children.

When she came to Ponce, she ingratiated herself with wealthy families in the same area, and more or less expected from them all kinds of help and assistance.

He advised that with regard to the records he maintained concerning his official contact with her, he would prefer for his own protection that a court order be produced in order for him to reveal the contents of the records he maintained in his contact with Silvia.

[SJ T-3, a medical doctor practicing in Ponce, Puerto Rico] furnished the following information regarding Silvia Herrera on September 9, 1964:

When she first came to Ponce, she was known to a well-to-do Cuban family who lived in the same area and who introduced her to other influential families in Ponce.

On one occasion, [he was called out to treat her professionally when it was reported to him that] she had had an attack of nerves. [After he examined her] it was his determination that she had no such attack; instead, she feigned the attack to get attention from her neighbors in El Vigia, Ponce.

He described her as a very mixed up young lady. She was reported, by unrecalled sources, to have been under psychiatric care in Miami, Florida, and she also had consulted a psychiatrist in Ponce.

She is the mother of several small children, and she has abandoned both her children and husband and is living somewhere in the United States. She apparently comes from a well-to-do family in Cuba, and she does not have the stamina to accept the loss of all that to which she was accustomed in Cuba.

It was rumored in Ponce that, while her husband was away from Ponce, she became emotionally involved

with another married man of Cuban extraction, which involvement caused his separation, for a time, from his own wife. At about the time Silvia Herrera was rumored to be going with another married man, she claimed she had had an attack of amnesia for about a 12 to 24 hour period. [SJ T-4] however, completely discounted her allegation in this respect because he has consulted with a psychiatrist in Ponce concerning her alleged amnesia attack, and the psychiatrist's observation was that there was no reason why she should have had such an attack.

On September 10, 1964, attempts were made to locate Leopoldo Villoldo in Hato Rey, Puerto Rico. It was ascertained that Mr. Alfredo Villoldo resides at 233 Almirante Pinzon, Hato Rey, with friends. On contact at this address, it was ascertained that Mr. Villoldo had recently returned to San Juan from Dallas, Texas, and was acquainted with Guillermo Herrera and his former wife, Silvia Odio; however, it was ascertained that Mr. Villoldo was presently on a business trip throughout the Island of Puerto Rico and was not expected to return until the following week.

On September 10, 1964, Mr. [redacted] Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, advised that he is the second cousin of Silvia Odio. He stated that he was quite close to Odio's family, both in Cuba and with her while she resided in Ponce, Puerto Rico. He advised that Silvia was one of nine children, but the oldest daughter of a very wealthy family in Havana, Cuba, and was the center of attraction of the family and of many social activities in Havana. She was given anything that she wanted and was fawned upon by everyone who knew her. He described her as selfish, egotistical, very attractive, well-educated, and a very convincing speaker but very emotional. He stated that her father was a self-made man and had no scruples when

it came to business. She married Guillermo Herrera in 1957, and he described Herrera as being basically the same type of person as Silvia.

On arrival in Ponce in 1960, in view of the fact that her husband was working as an engineer and they were on a very tight budget financially, Silvia, who was accustomed to the ten servants in her family's home, was forced to do all of her own housework as well as care for her children by herself. He advised she was unable to cope with these problems and continually expressed her dissatisfaction, seeking sympathy and assistance from her friends.

He advised that in 1962, Silvia's husband was sent to Germany by his company which aggravated the situation in Ponce inasmuch as they had to operate on a tighter budget in order that he could finance his trip to Germany. Mr. [redacted] stated that there was considerable split amongst the members of the family in regard to this trip to Germany in that numerous members of the family stated that Herrera should not have made the trip and sympathized with Odio while others stated it was necessary for him to make the trip in order for him to advance professionally. During this period, she suffered a nervous breakdown, and he, [redacted] convinced her she should travel to Miami for a rest and visit some of her relatives. Odio made this trip, taking one child with her and he, [redacted] took care of the other children. While in Miami visiting her brother Cesar, they became involved in a family fight, and she again suffered a breakdown in Miami.

Mr. [redacted] stated that he has heard rumors from other members of the family and from acquaintances in Ponce that she did have an affair with another individual in Ponce, but that he has no personal knowledge of this.

Upon the return of Herrera from Germany, Odio and her husband fought continually for several weeks, at which

time she asked for a divorce, but he refused to grant it. At this time, Odio traveled to Dallas, Texas, to visit relatives where she remained for several months. In the Spring of 1963, she returned, at which time she filed for a divorce and Herrera filed a countersuit. The divorce was finally granted on Herrera's suit, and he was awarded custody of the children. Mr. [redacted] stated that there is some type of private agreement between Odio and her former husband enabling her to maintain custody of the children.

He stated that he has not seen her since she went to Dallas in 1963 but has heard several reports that she has again attempted, on numerous occasions, to become the center of attaction of the social circle in which she travels. He stated that in his opinion, this is one of her main difficulties, that she cannot rationalize herself to the fact that she is no longer the daughter of a wealthy individual who will grant her every request and, she will perform various actions in an attempt to become the center of attraction. He advised that the members of the family are split in their opinion of Odio, some being of the opinion that she is almost crazy, and the others offering their condolences at her troubles and offering her assistance.

Mr. [redacted] stated that her parents were arrested by the Fidel Castro regime in late 1961 while Odio resided in Ponce, and he knows that this was quite an emotional shock for her. He stated that her father received a sentence of 30 years and is presently incarcerated on the Isle of Pines, and her mother received a sentence of six years and is in custody in Havana, Cuba. He advised that, during the period of the divorce, he, himself, was in Europe on a business trip, and suggested that his sister, [redacted] be contacted as she assisted Odio during this period. He further suggested that his

other sister, [redacted], who resides in Miami, Florida, would be able to furnish information regarding her activities in Miami.

Mr. [redacted] stated the name Leopoldo is a very uncommon name, and he knows of no individual by that name who has been a member of any anti-Castro organization. He advised the only Leopoldo he knows is one Leopoldo Pineiro who was a classmate of his at the Havana Business Academy in 1948. He stated he last saw this individual in 1959 in Havana, at which time Pineiro was an official in the Cuban militia. He has heard nothing concerning this individual since.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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TITLE LEE HARVEY OSWALD

CHARACTER INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

REFERENCE Memorandum, dated and captioned as above, at San Juan, Puerto Rico.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

The reliability of SJ T-1 cannot be evaluated, but source can be described as [a former neighbor of Silvia Odio] who would be in a position to obtain the information furnished.

[SJ T-2 and SJ T-3] can be described as [professional] individuals who were in a position to obtain the information furnished.